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## FROM TOM'S DESK

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Are you already as tired of this election year as I am? As a nation, we allow too much to be spent on Presidential campaigns and the campaign season is far too lengthy. Perhaps we should take a page out of the British how-to-run-an-election procedure manual, as they limit the amount of money and time spent on their elections. Anyway, with that being said, I encourage each of you to stay informed on where the candidates for President and Congress stand on veterans issues and vote accordingly. Over the next couple legislative sessions, we are going to see several attempts to radically change the VA Compensation & Pension system, as well as the military retirement program. Some changes will be for the good, but many will create additional hardships for our veterans and their families. Please stay informed and let our President and legislators know where you stand on each issue.

I hope you each enjoy spring, and that your spouse does not have a long list of projects for your completion as does mine. Be sure to get signed up to attend some of the service organization conventions coming up this summer. Also, make sure you mark your calendars for this year's annual Service Officer Training Conference scheduled for August 12, 13, 14, 2008. I look forward to seeing you over the next several months.

Enjoy this edition of the Bulletin, and make sure you share it with your fellow veterans.

## IDAHO STATE VETERANS HOME – POCATELLO VOLUNTEER SERVICES, Carey Hebdon

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Some of us here at the Pocatello Home are not too sure where the last three months have gone, but the calendar says that Spring has arrived. We were so glad our Easter egg hunt wasn't snowed upon for too long, and we appreciate the VFW Ladies Auxiliary joining with the Home's Employee Association in sponsoring this event. It is just one of many that brings joy to our Veterans Home.

In March we had the privilege of taking a group of residents to the Dodge National Circuit Finals Rodeo. Over the years, a good relationship has developed with the Idaho State University Holt Arena Security and Operations office, and this was reflected by the accommodating manner in which our group was received and assisted.

When I spoke with the person I coordinated the outing with, she shared what the security folks and other staff had to say after the rodeo. They commented on how clean and well-groomed our residents looked, and that the consideration and care displayed "with even just wheeling the wheelchairs" and the care given throughout the rodeo showed that our veterans are receiving excellent care. She stated she noticed the same things, but would probably not have said anything. Then went on to state that with the events held there, they see all the groups from other places and that they could see a huge difference in the way our residents are treated. Stating that, "you could just tell that the people helping them really care."

I share this experience because the organizations, volunteers, and donors who bless our Home with the means to take our residents out into the community are to be commended. The Outings and many activities we're able to provide within the Home, geared for all levels and abilities, are directly related to the awesome people who share their time, talent, energy, resources, and love. This precious partnership is what makes your Idaho State Veterans Homes so unique.

As I thanked our friend with Idaho State University for her help, she stated, "We owe a debt of gratitude to our veterans and are just happy to do anything we can." Her remark reflects the attitude of veterans who watch out for each other, and those who join them. This is especially visible in our Veterans Home.

Thank you to the veterans and active military who serve our Nation in the preservation of freedom. Thank you to everyone involved in supporting Idaho's Division of Veterans Services mission. Together, we are "Caring for America's Heroes."

### IDAHO STATE VETERANS HOMES

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Local service officers, family or friends who may know of interested eligible veterans are asked to encourage them to make application for admittance to the home in their geographic area. Call or write to the following for more information and/or applications.

- ✱ **Idaho State Veterans Home - Boise**  
Cody Schaner  
320 Collins Road  
Boise, ID 83702  
(208) 246-8736
- ✱ **Idaho State Veterans Home - Lewiston**  
Sara Alway  
821 - 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue  
Lewiston, ID 83501  
(208) 799-3422
- ✱ **Idaho State Veterans Home - Pocatello**  
Darcel Cook  
1957 Alvin Ricken Drive  
Pocatello ID 83201  
(208) 236-6340

## **IDAHO STATE VETERANS HOME – LEWISTON**

### **VOLUNTEER SERVICES, Terri Brockman**

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The calm after the busy holiday season was appreciated during the month of January. The residents enjoyed the fun and exercise of the Wii game acquired a few months ago, playing each week with staff, families, and volunteers. Regence Blue Shield employees donated another Wii game and a big screen TV for Christmas, and they will be placed in the new activity room. The activity department has been busy moving storage rooms and getting ready to use the new room, with the Grand Opening slated for April 26<sup>th</sup>. This will also be our Volunteer Appreciation, when we will have musical entertainment throughout the day by our dedicated volunteers. The event will begin at 10:00 a.m. and conclude at 5:00 p.m. We encourage everyone who has volunteered at the Home and anyone wanting to volunteer at the Home to come and meet our valued volunteers and other dedicated people who care for America's Heroes. We would like to give a special thanks to all the individuals and organizations who donated funds to furnish the activity room in the grand fashion deserving of our veteran residents.

During February, the residents got to enjoy the Super Bowl with smoked salmon and other treats. They also took an outing out to the VFW Hall for a special breakfast, had delicious ice cream sundaes on Valentines day, and in honor of leap year, those who wanted to participate, dressed up as hillbillies for Leap Day.

During March, the staff, residents, and volunteers all had a great time on St. Patrick's Day with special treats, green attire, and a little luck O' the Irish. On the Saturday before Easter, we held a community Easter Egg Hunt, where the residents delighted in the spring weather and the children who attended.

Many volunteer opportunities are available here at the Home. We need volunteers in the canteen, visiting with residents, playing bingo, and playing cards. Anyone who enjoys singing, playing instruments, and entertaining our troops are encouraged to schedule a place on our activity calendar. If you would like to join the group of caring individuals who volunteer at the Home, please contact me at 799-3422 or stop by the Idaho State Veterans Home at located at 821 - 21st Avenue.

## **IDAHO STATE VETERANS HOME – BOISE**

### **VOLUNTEER SERVICES, Phil Hawkins**

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Thanks go out to all the organizations and individuals who helped with our Beds for Vets program. This on-going project is working very well. When we started the project we needed approximately 90 beds, and so far we have obtained nearly 40. These new beds are outstanding. They are high-low beds, which are a big advantage because it is much easier for our staff to perform cares. They can also be lowered to about a foot off the floor for those who risk rolling out of bed. If a resident is charted as a risk for falling out of bed, a large mat is placed for just such an occurrence and an alarm is put in place. Thank you again for all your support on this project.

We had another wonderful Christmas this year with a lot of support from all the service organizations, and of course those great folks from Gowen Field. We had some great parties for our veterans in January, and on February 14<sup>th</sup> our great Activity Staff held their annual Sweetheart's Luncheon for residents and spouses. 40 couples attended, had a great time, and enjoyed a fantastic meal. Later that afternoon, there was another party for those who did not attend the luncheon. Again, thanks to all the volunteers and staff who helped with these events.

If you have a few minutes, we would love to have you stop by and visit. If you would like to volunteer in areas such as the Arts & Crafts room, the Canteen, or the clothing room, or would like to help serve our veterans their meals or just come and visit, we would enjoy having you any time.

Some of the upcoming events here at the Home are our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at 6:30 p.m. on April 15<sup>th</sup>. We are planning a great program for all you volunteers and I guarantee you will have a wonderful time! I can't wait to see you all. Our Spring Parking Lot Party is, as always, on Armed Forces Day, May 17<sup>th</sup>. We will have intermittent raffles, food, and a lot of cars. We need a lot of volunteers that day, so if you can help, please let us know. The program starts at 11:00 a.m. and runs until 2:00 p.m. Thanks in advance to all the volunteers who normally help with this event – the Marine Corps League, the Young Marines, the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Disabled American Veterans – thank you all for your continuous support of this great Home!

Have a great spring and God bless you all. Thank you for helping with our mission of "Caring for America's Heroes."

## IDAHO STATE VETERANS CEMETERY UPDATE

CEMETERY DIRECTOR, Zach Rodriguez

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As a result of my attending the American Legion Legislative Mixer, we conducted numerous tours here in January, including groups from the Washington State Cemetery, the American Legion, and VFW National Commander, George Lisicki.

In February we opened the Public Information Center, which is staffed by a part-time volunteer to answer questions from visitors. Because February is consistently a slow month here at the cemetery, our grounds crew decided to conduct welding training by designing and constructing a metal picnic table for use by the honor guard and volunteers. We generated substantial savings by utilizing the talents of our grounds crew on this project.

In March we had a barbecue for the honor guard groups from all branches of service, as well as for the cemetery volunteers and staff. We also attended a retreat where we learned new skills to better serve the public and work together as a team.

With the coming of spring and warmer weather, internments will be increasing. The grounds crew is busy with the maintenance of machinery to prepare the grounds for the warm spring and summer months ahead. They are also utilizing their welding training from last month to build light covers for the cemetery dump trucks to prevent breakage during daily activities.

We are eager to welcome spring and that time of year when everything is in bloom. If you have not visited for a while, take the time to tour the cemetery. And please stop by the office to say hello.

## VA CREATING ADVISORY PANEL ON RURAL HEALTH

News Release, February 20, 2008

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On February 20<sup>th</sup>, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake announced the creation of a special “Rural Health National Advisory Committee” to advise him and the senior leaders of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) about health care issues affecting veterans in rural areas. “In the last decade, VA has created outpatient clinics that bring health care closer to where veterans actually live,” Peake said. “This advisory committee, working within the highest levels of VA, will ensure the Department remains responsive to the health care needs of rural veterans.”

While Peake said many of the details of the panel are still being formulated, the committee will consist of members familiar with rural health issues. The members will come from the federal, state, and local sectors, academia, and veterans service organizations. The advisory committee will provide guidance to Peake and to Dr. Michael J. Kussman, the VA’s Under Secretary for Health. The panel’s first meeting is tentatively scheduled for this summer.

The VA has 25 similar advisory committees, each with between 10 and 15 members. Members are typically appointed to one, two, or three-year terms to ensure continuity of operations.

Milestones for the VA’s Rural Health Initiative include:

- ✓ Established Office of Rural Health in VA headquarters (February 2007).
- ✓ First report to Congress on improving access to mental health and long-term health in rural areas (September 2007).
- ✓ Increased mileage reimbursements for patients for first time in 30 years (February 2008).
- ✓ Expanding current programs that provide:
  - Services to Native American veterans.
  - Mental health.
  - Long-term care.
- ✓ Expanding existing telehealth programs and investigating new applications.
  - VA patients in 30 states now use telehealth devices.
  - Established telehealth training center for VA professionals in Lake City, FL (January 2004).
  - Current technology permits:
    - Patient care coordination among health care professionals.
    - Exchange of routine clinical data from home-bound patients.
    - Continuity of care to mobile senior “snowbirds.”
- ✓ Projects under consideration:
  - Mobile health care vans.
  - Transportation grants.
  - Collaborating with non-VA facilities.
  - Patient education through “pod” casts.

## U.S. PREPARES SALUTE FOR LAST DOUGHBOY

By: Kirsten Scharnberg

The Chicago Tribune

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This is a celebration no one takes any pleasure in planning. The event will pay tribute to the 4 million American men and women who answered the call to fight in the first world war. It will honor the families who sent young soldiers off to battle long before telephones or email allowed them routine updates on their safety. And it will salute a generation that led the nation through a Great War, a Great Depression, a great renewal.

But none of it will transpire until one man -- a father, a grandfather, a living piece of history -- dies. Recently, the second-to-last American veteran of World War I, Harry Landis, of Sun City Center, FL, died at the age of 108. Landis' passing leaves one man, 107-year-old Frank Buckles, the sole surviving U.S. doughboy. Buckles, of Charles Town, WV, remains in remarkably good health; still living at home and doing media interviews, still mentally sharp and physically mobile, still exercising every day. Yet when he goes, so too, will a generation.

So plans are being made at the National World War I Museum in Kansas City to commemorate the end of an era. "When the announcement is made that Mr. Buckles is gone and, with him, the entire generation that fought in the Great War, I hope it will be a time for the country to really pause and think about this generation that sacrificed so much for our country," said Denise Rendina, the museum's spokeswoman. It "will make a war that took place some 90 years ago feel suddenly very real and very close to us."

Worldwide, there are about 14 surviving World War I veterans, half of those being onetime British soldiers, according to Jim Benson, a spokesman for the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs. "We will have to be very careful to make this clear that this is the passing of the American World War I generation," Benson said. "Because, thus far, the history of that war continues to live on in a little more than a dozen veterans who served with our allies."

The VA will issue the formal announcement of "the passing of a generation." Such announcements in the past -- for the death of the last Civil War and Spanish-American War vets -- often have led to controversy when others suddenly claimed to have also served in that war. But the VA, which has researched the issue, believes there will be little dispute that Buckles is the last American World War I veteran.

It is, perhaps, fitting that the museum here in Kansas City is making plans for the passing-of-a-generation ceremony. After all, both of the longest-surviving WWI vets, Landis and Buckles, were originally from Missouri. Buckles, born in 1901 on a farm near Bethany, MO, lied about his age to enlist shortly after turning 16. He fought in France and Germany. Later, in World War II, he became a prisoner of war for 39 months after the Japanese invaded the Philippines. He never expected to be the last of his comrades left standing. "For many years, I would read the figures in The Torch [a veterans magazine] in two columns -- one was the number of 4.7 million-something veterans who served, and the other, which kept going down, was the number of us that were still alive," Buckles told the Tribune in an interview last year. "I knew one day it would come to this, but I didn't think I would be one of the few still around to talk about it."

Although plans for the Kansas City memorial ceremony aren't yet final, some aspects are clear. Buckles will be honored as the last veteran, but the event will focus on all who went before. Weather permitting, World War I museum officials plan to gather observers at the base of the Liberty Memorial, a national monument to the war erected in downtown Kansas City in 1921. A bugler will play taps, there will be a 21-gun salute, and someone will read "In Flanders Fields," the famous poem by Lt. Col. John McCrae. In addition to Buckles' family, national dignitaries will be invited, including the President, top generals, famous veterans, and Medal of Honor recipients.

It is expected there will be similar events in the Nation's capital. Carmella LaSpada, executive director of the White House Commission on Remembrance, said she has been putting together a plan on how to lead the country in remembering the World War I generation. "What I have found in my job," LaSpada said, "is that you can't always make people care, but you can make them remember. I hope in this situation, we can do both."

## ARMED FORCES MEMBERS AND VETERANS MAY NOW SALUTE THE FLAG WHEN NOT IN UNIFORM

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HR4986, the Defense Appropriation Bill, recently signed by President Bush, gives authority to members of the Armed Forces and veterans not in uniform to render the hand salute where required. Section 9 of title 4 of the United States Code is amended to read as follows.

During the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the flag or when the flag is passing in a parade or in review, all persons present in uniform should render the military salute. Members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute. All other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart, or if applicable, remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Citizens of other countries present should stand at attention. All such conduct toward the flag in a moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes.

## **VETERANS NOT REQUIRED TO FILE TAX RETURNS MAY BE ENTITLED TO STIMULUS PAYMENT**

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Did you receive disability compensation, pension, or survivors' benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs last year? Even if you are not otherwise required to file a tax return, you may still be entitled to an economic stimulus payment from the federal government.

You could receive a payment of \$300 for individuals or \$600 if you are married and file a joint tax return with your spouse. Eligible taxpayers who qualify for a payment may receive an additional \$300 for each qualifying child. To qualify, a child must be under age 17 as of December 31, 2007.

All you have to do to get the stimulus payment is file a 2007 IRS Form 1040 or Form 1040A and report at least \$3,000 in qualifying income on the form. You can include the amount of your VA benefits to qualify for the stimulus payment. Add the amount of your VA disability compensation, pension, or survivors' benefits to any other qualifying income you have to reach the \$3,000 requirement. Other qualifying income would include wage earnings or Social Security benefits.

Enter your name, address, Social Security number, and filing status on the form. Then just enter the amount of VA and Social Security benefits you received on line 14a of the Form 1040A or line 20a of Form 1040. You can estimate the benefits you receive from the VA or the Social Security Administration by taking the monthly amount you received last year and multiplying it by the number of months you received payments. If you need to include wage earnings to reach the \$3,000 qualifying level, enter that amount on Line 7 of Form 1040A or 1040. In addition, you should write the words "Stimulus Payment" at the top of the 1040A or 1040.

The Stimulus Payment is not taxable next year, and will not affect the amount of VA benefits you receive. For those who filed a 2007 tax return, the IRS will begin mailing checks in May.

The IRS has put together a packet of information to for recipients of VA benefits who did not file a tax return last year. The packet will contain guidance to help claim the stimulus payment. For more information or help completing the form, please call the IRS hotline at (866) 234-2942 or visit their web site at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). You can also get help completing the form by contacting one of the following organizations in your area--IRS Taxpayer Assistance Centers, Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) sites, Low Income Taxpayer Clinics (LITC), or local Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites.

## **PERIOD OF ENHANCED ENROLLMENT OPPORTUNITY FOR HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY EXTENDED**

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The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181) was signed by President Bush on January 28, 2008. This Act extends the period of enhanced enrollment opportunity for health care eligibility provided to a veteran who served in a theater of combat operations after November 11, 1998, commonly referred to as combat veterans or OEF/OIF veterans, as follows:

- ✓ Currently enrolled combat veterans will have their enhanced enrollment period automatically extended to 5 years from their most recent date of discharge.
- ✓ New enrollees discharged from active duty on or after January 28, 2003, are eligible for this enhanced enrollment health benefit for 5 years after their date of their most recent discharge from active duty.
- ✓ Combat Veterans who never enrolled and were discharged from active duty between November 11, 1998, and January 27, 2003, may apply for this enhanced enrollment opportunity through January 27, 2011.

Please note that combat veterans who applied for enrollment after January 16, 2003, but were not accepted for enrollment based on the application being outside the previous post-discharge two year window will be automatically reviewed and notified of the enrollment decision under this new authority.

As before, veterans enrolling under this "Combat Veteran" enhanced enrollment authority are assigned to Priority Group 6, unless eligible for a higher Priority Group, and will not be charged copays for medication and/or treatment of conditions that are potentially related to their combat service. Combat veterans are not required to disclose their income information, but may do so to determine their eligibility for a higher priority, beneficiary travel benefits, and exemption of copays for care unrelated to their military service.

Veterans who enroll with the VA under this enhanced enrollment authority will continue to be enrolled even after their enhanced eligibility period ends. At the end of their enhanced eligibility period, veterans enrolled in Priority Group 6 may be shifted to Priority Group 7 or 8, depending on their income level, and required to make applicable copays.

National Guard and Reserve personnel who were activated and served in a theater of combat operations after November 11, 1998, may also be eligible for enhanced health care benefits under the "Combat Veteran" authority. To qualify, they must have been discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable and have served the period they were called to duty.

For questions concerning Combat Veteran eligibility, visit [www.va.gov/healtheligibility](http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility).

## HOW LONG DOES THE VA TAKE?

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As of March 1, 2008, the VA Regional Office in Boise reports the following figures. The average time to process disability claims is:

	Boise	Nation
Original claims (7 issues or less):	155 days	210 days
Original claims (8 issues or more):	199 days	197 days
Reopened and claims for increase:	127 days	202 days
Service connected death claims:	100 days	124 days

The Boise VA Regional Office had 316 Global War on Terror (GWOT) claims pending. On average, these claims had been pending 87 days, compared to a national average of 109 days. They have identified 20 severely injured GWOT veterans in Idaho. Claims from one of them is still active and have been pending an average of 13 days. Boise has 1,590 disability claims pending. Of those, 114 (7.18%) have been pending more than six months, and four (0.25%) have been pending more than one year.

The average time on hold for calls coming in to the Boise VA Regional Office in February was less than three minutes, with 2,021 calls taken. The worst time to call? The first three days of the month and any Monday. They also conducted 425 personal interviews with an average wait time of less than four minutes. The worst time to visit? The first three days of the month and any Monday.

In February, it took 14 days from receipt of an application for rehabilitation, to the date the VA notified the veteran of the decision on eligibility.

In February, the VA issued benefits amounting to \$14,184,049 to Idaho's veterans, and \$1,760,426 to widows, orphans, and dependent parents of Idaho's veterans. That totals over \$191 million per year to support Idaho's disabled veterans, their dependents, and their survivors.

## CLARIFICATION OF CONCURRENT RECEIPT/COMBAT RELATED SPECIAL COMPENSATION

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Concurrent Receipt (CR) was granted to those folks rated 100% unemployable (IU) by the VA (retroactive beginning October 2008). The Original CR or current phase-in is now at 70%. You probably remember in 2004 that Congress passed CR as a 10-year phase-in, so that by 2010 everyone will receive their full CR if eligible. Basically, this means those eligible are receiving 70% of their retired pay as of January 1, 2008. To receive this you must be rated 50% or higher by the VA and have 20 or more years of military service.

Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC) was granted to all military disabled retirees who were medically retired (Chapter 61) with less than 20 years of service.

## STATE SERVICE OFFICER NOW CONDUCTING BENEFITS OUTREACH AT THE CBOC IN CALDWELL

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State Service Officer, Gina Stamper, is now available to answer questions and help file claims for VA benefits at the new VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) in Caldwell. She will be there the last Tuesday of every month from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The CBOC is located at 120 East Pine Street in Caldwell. For more information or to set up an appointment to meet with Ms. Stamper at the Caldwell CBOC, please call her office at (208) 246-8761.

## BOISE VA MEDICAL CENTER WELCOMES NEW PATIENT ADVOCATE

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In February, the Boise VA Medical Center welcomed their new Patient Advocate, Larissa Richards. You can reach Ms. Richards at (208) 422-1034.

The Patient Advocate is a liaison between the veteran patients, the Medical Center, veteran service organizations, community groups, and families. The Patient Advocate communicates the vision, mission, policies, and procedures of the Medical Center to the patients and instructs veterans and their families in ways to access available resources and services. The Patient Advocate is available from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. during the business week..

## NUMBER OF HOMELESS VETERANS DROPS FROM 21%

News Release, March 6, 2008

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The number of veterans homeless on a typical night has declined 21% in the past year, thanks to the services offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and its partners in community and faith-based organizations, plus changing demographics and improvements in survey techniques.

The reduction of homeless veterans from more than 195,000 to about 154,000 was announced as Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake was elected to chair the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness. Peake's election to head the council coordinating the federal response to homelessness came as VA released the fourteenth annual Community Homeless Assessment, Local Education, and Networking Group (CHALENG) report on homeless veterans. "We are seeing significant progress in the fight against homelessness," said Peake. "This success should encourage all those concerned about homeless veterans, for it shows we can make a difference in the lives of these veterans through our services and with our community partners."

The decline in veterans' homelessness was attributed, in part, to the VA's success in providing more services for homeless veterans and improved coordination of federal, state, and local efforts. The VA provides health care to about 100,000 homeless veterans, and compensation and pensions to nearly 40,000 annually. The Department offers homeless veterans employment assistance and help obtaining foreclosed homes and excess federal property, including clothes, footwear, blankets, and other items. The Department has already approved funding for more than 12,000 beds in transitional housing programs, and provides about 5,000 veterans each year with residential services in VA hospital-based programs. Other factors in the decline of homeless veterans include the substantial reduction in the number of poor veterans, from 3 million in 1990 to 1.8 million in 2000, improvements in counting homeless people.

The U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness is the coordinating entity within the federal government composed of 20 cabinet secretaries and agency heads that creates partnerships at every level of government and the private sector to end homelessness.

## GRANT MONEY AVAILABLE FOR AMERICAN INDIAN VETERANS CEMETERIES

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The Central Office of the VA has been contacting the leadership of tribes to inform them of the change in the Department's State Cemetery Grants Program. Public Law 109-461, The Veterans Benefits, Health Care, and Information Technology Act of 2006, adds a subsection to title 38 U.S. Code to provide access to grant monies to build American Indian Veterans' Cemeteries on trust lands.

With this new authority, American Indian tribal organizations are eligible to apply for and receive grant money to establish, expand, or improve American Indian veterans cemeteries. Grants will be considered in the same manner as State Veterans cemetery grants under the authority of title 38 U.S. CFR Part 39. The VA will provide up to 100% of the development cost for an approved project and also provide funding for initial operating equipment. Funds will not be provided for the acquisition of land.

A conference call between senior VA staff and tribal representatives took place on February 22, 2008, to provide a briefing on the grant application process. For more information on the Department of Veterans Affairs State Cemetery Grants Program, go to [www.cem.va.gov/cem/scg\\_grants.asp](http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/scg_grants.asp).

## VA AWARDS CONTRACT FOR DISABILITY BENEFITS STUDIES

News Release, January 30, 2008

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The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has awarded a \$3.2 million contract to Economic Systems Inc. of Falls Church, Virginia, to develop information relating to possible changes in the composition of disability payments to disabled veterans. "This contract is further evidence of VA's commitment to review the full range of benefits and programs to ensure today's disabled veterans receive the help they have earned," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake.

The contract is based upon recommendations of the Dole-Shalala Commission, which issued its final report in July 2007, and the October 2007 final report of the Veterans Disability Benefits Commission.

The contractor will provide its findings in August 2008. Economic Systems Inc. will address three basic research questions in two studies. One study will examine the nature and feasibility of making "long-term transition payments" to service members separated from the military due to disability while those veterans undergo rehabilitation.

A second study will provide information on the appropriate levels of compensation necessary to compensate for any loss in earnings capacity caused by service-incurred or service-aggravated conditions. It will also provide information on potential "quality of life" payments called for by both studies.

## **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (NASDVA)**

### **WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR VETERANS**

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Each year state governments spend more than \$4 billion to support our nation's veterans and their families. Collectively, states are second only to the federal Department of Veterans Affairs in providing benefits and services to the men and women who defended our nation. Although each state is unique, with its own traditions, programs, and resources, they are united by a common goal to make a difference in the lives of veterans.

The members of NASDVA, which includes the Administrator of the Idaho Division of Veterans Services, bring together the best of all states and territories. They work together to find real solutions to common problems, and the pooling of expertise and knowledge allows this organization to serve as a resource for each state, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and Congress.

NASDVA is an organization consisting of veterans affairs officials in each state and territory. The names vary; some states refer to their organizations as divisions, departments, agencies, commissions etc... NASDVA provides a medium for the exchange of ideas and information between states so they can learn from each other and organize responses to issues that face veterans nationwide. NASDVA works to secure uniformity, equality, efficiency, and effectiveness in providing services to veterans and their families, especially in regards to claims representation. They are willing partners with Congress, the federal Department of Veterans Affairs, and the veteran services organizations that advocate for veterans.

NASDVA membership meets twice a year; the mid-winter conference held each winter in the Washington, DC area, and the Annual Conference which is rotated between States who wish to host it. Last year, the conference was held in Maryland and the 2008 conference is scheduled to be held in California.

### **VA PUTTING MOBILE PHARMACIES ON THE ROAD**

**News Release, March 18, 2008**

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To support veterans and their families during major emergencies, especially natural disasters, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has begun to deploy mobile pharmacies that will provide vital medicine when patients are unable to fill their prescriptions. The VA will also open up the facilities to help communities during major disasters and other emergencies. "The mobile pharmacies give VA the ability to provide critical medications to veterans when disaster strikes," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. "VA is committed to ensuring our veterans receive their care and prescriptions as soon as possible during an emergency."

Each VA mobile pharmacy is housed in a 40-foot-long solid steel trailer built to withstand winds in a Category 3 storm. The units include a satellite connection with the VA's Consolidated Mail Outpatient Pharmacy system, a computerized, automated state-of-the-art mailout pharmacy that can process more than 1,000 prescriptions hourly. Pharmacists can use the satellite system to obtain a veteran's prescription data to dispense the drugs on site. In addition, the VA can send replacement medications during an emergency by mail or another carrier to a veteran's home or temporary address.

The VA recognized the need for mobile pharmacies in 2005 after hurricanes Katrina and Rita severely damaged VA medical centers along the Gulf Coast. The Department deployed several mobile medical clinics as part of its response to the disasters.

The first mobile pharmacy was unveiled on September 11, 2007, in front of the VA's Washington, DC, headquarters. The unit was displayed recently at a meeting of the American Society of Health System Pharmacists in Las Vegas. A second mobile pharmacy is expected to be delivered in March 2008. To ensure rapid response to a wide range of emergencies, the VA's mobile pharmacies will be strategically placed across the nation. Plans now call for one of the three mobile pharmacies to be stationed at Dallas, TX; Murfreesboro, TN; and Charleston, SC. The Department also expects to acquire a fourth unit that will be placed in the western part of the country.

Each mobile pharmacy is divided into five compartments, including a work area for pharmacists, an entryway accessible to patients and a sleeping area with a bath and shower for VA personnel. Pharmacy personnel from across the country have already volunteered to staff the units in the event of a natural disaster or other emergency. Six pharmacists who were part of a regional disaster drill have already completed their training and can deploy on short notice.

"Our mobile clinics enabled us to provide critical services during hurricanes Katrina and Rita not only to veterans but also to thousands of others in the area who were adversely affected by the storm," said Michael Valentino, the VA's Pharmacy Chief. "These new mobile pharmacy units will ensure that we are even better prepared for future emergencies."

## **MORE EDUCATION BENEFITS COMING TO RESERVISTS, GUARDSMEN**

**News Release, March 3, 2008**

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Some members of the National Guard and the Reserves who serve on active duty will see a significant increase in their educational benefits, thanks to improvements announced by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). "Reservists and National Guardsmen who serve multiple tours on active duty may get an increase in their educational benefits, in keeping with the value of their service to our nation," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake.

Under new provisions, members who accumulate three years on active duty, regardless of breaks in service, may be eligible for the maximum payment under the Reserve Education Assistance Program (REAP). Previously, reservists and guardsmen had to serve two continuous years on active duty to receive the highest payment. The new eligibility rules are retroactive to October 1, 2007.

The top payment under REAP is currently \$880.80 per month. The new law, part of the National Defense Authorization Act, also expands the period of eligibility for certain Guard and Reserve members who complete their service obligation before separation from the selected reserve. Members meeting these criteria may be eligible to use REAP benefits for a period of ten years following discharge. Benefits typically end upon separation for members who do not complete their full, obligated service.

Additionally, some REAP-eligible National Guard and Reserve members may now make an extra contribution to the Department of Defense to increase their monthly benefit rates. Service members receive an additional \$5 per month for each \$20 contributed. With the maximum \$600 contribution, this option can add up to \$5,400 to a member's total 36-month education benefit package.

Beginning on October 1, 2008, participants in REAP and the Montgomery GI Bill program for the Selected Reserve who pursue non-degree programs lasting less than two years may also be eligible to receive accelerated payments.

During FY 2007, more than 60,000 National Guardsmen and reservists were paid under REAP, more than 41,000 were paid under the Montgomery GI Bill program for the Selected Reserves, and approximately 344,000 participants were paid under the Montgomery GI Bill for active-duty members.

For more information on changes to VA's GI Bill benefits, go to [www.GIBILL.va.gov](http://www.GIBILL.va.gov) or contact VA directly at (888) 442-4551.

## **FY09 VA BUDGET PROPOSAL A GOOD START, BUT THE VFW CALLS ON CONGRESS TO IMPROVE IT**

**News Release, February 4, 2008**

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The national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is calling the President's budget proposal for the Department of Veterans Affairs a good start, and is now asking Congress to improve upon the funding and policy package. He is also urging Congress to make sure the VA receives its funding before the government's new fiscal year begins on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

"Overall, we are pleased with the recommended \$1.7 billion increase in discretionary funding," said George Lisicki, a Vietnam combat veteran from Carteret, New Jersey. "However, we point to serious funding shortfalls in critical areas such as medical research and construction, and will work with Congress to see that these programs are fully funded so that no veteran is denied service."

Under this budget package, funding for major and minor construction covering everything from veterans' hospitals to regional offices would be cut almost in half. In addition, research funding for the signature wounds from the war – such as Traumatic Brain Injuries and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder – and research for prosthetics, burn treatment, blind rehabilitation, and other vital areas would be reduced by \$38 million. Lisicki said the VFW demands that funding for these programs be fully and expeditiously increased to reflect the true costs of war, and the nation's obligation to her defenders in their time of need.

The VFW also vehemently opposes a recommendation for separate legislation to create annual enrollment fees – ranging from \$250 to \$750 – for nonservice-connected disabled veterans in Categories 7 and 8, and to increase their pharmacy copayment fees from \$8 to \$15 per 30-day supply per prescription. Lisicki said this would place an intolerable burden on many veterans in need of care, some of whom would be unable to afford the fee increases.

"Our nation is at war and the VA is a valuable partner in that fight," said Lisicki, who leads the largest organization of war veterans in the country. "The administration's proposal is a good start; now it is the responsibility of Congress to ensure the final budget is approved on time, and to guarantee that the final amount is what is needed to care for our veterans of past, present, and future."

## **VA INCREASES TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT FOR ELIGIBLE VETERANS**

**News Release, January 31, 2008**

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Over a million eligible veterans saw their mileage reimbursement more than double for travel to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities. "This increase helps veterans -- especially those living in rural areas -- offset some of the gasoline costs as they travel to VA's world-class health care," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. "Increasing the mileage reimbursement is one more step by VA to help veterans access the health care they deserve."

The 2008 appropriations act provided funding for the VA to increase the beneficiary travel mileage reimbursement rate from 11 cents per mile to 28.5 cents per mile. The increase went into effect on February 1, 2008.

After little more than a month on the job, Secretary Peake used his authority to establish the first increase in the mileage reimbursement in 30 years, fulfilling a pledge he made during his Senate confirmation hearing in December 1007. While increasing the payment, the VA, as mandated by law, also equally increased the deductible amounts applied to certain mileage reimbursements. The new deductibles are \$7.77 for a one way trip, \$15.54 for a round trip, with a maximum of \$46.62 per calendar month. However, these deductibles can be waived if they cause a financial hardship to the veteran.

## **THE VA'S NEW "TRAVEL NURSE PROGRAM" HITS THE ROAD**

**News Release, March 11, 2008**

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To deal with a nationwide shortage of nurses and to improve the quality of care for veterans, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has created a "Travel Nurse Corps" to enable VA nurses to travel and work throughout the Department's medical system. "VA is committed to putting health care facilities closer to veterans," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. "The Travel Nurse Corps will make it easier to bring our world-class health care professionals closer to veterans, too. And it will make it easier for us to shift personnel during times of crisis."

The Travel Nurse Corps, headquartered at the Phoenix VA Health Care System, is beginning as a three-year pilot program. Initially, it will place as many as 75 nurses at VA medical centers across the country. The goals of the program are to improve recruitment, decrease turnover of experienced nurses, and maintain high standards of patient care. Under the program, participating nurses may be temporarily assigned to distant medical centers and clinics to help nursing staffs that have vacancies, to reduce wait times or the reliance upon contractors, or to maintain high-skill services and procedures.

On February 20<sup>th</sup>, the Department announced plans to create a Rural Health Care Advisory Committee to enhance VA services to veterans in rural areas. The Travel Nurse Corps will work with this national VA panel to support VA health care in rural areas. "Those who join the VA Travel Nurse Corps will become key members of a talented group of professionals who are dedicated to providing the best care possible to our nation's veterans," said Cathy Rick, R.N., the VA's Chief Nursing Officer. "The program helps VA medical facilities address supplemental staffing needs while also ensuring there is a continued commitment to quality and safety."

Those who become VA travel nurses are compensated for their time on duty and their travel. They also receive standard government per diem allowances, which include lodging, meals, and incidentals. "This program is competitive with the private sector. VA has state-of-the-art facilities, high-tech computer systems, and professional colleagues second to none," said Jacqueline Jackson, Travel Nurse Corps Director at the Phoenix VA Health Care System.

The program is also designed to establish a potential pool for national emergencies and serve as a model for an expanded VA travel corps with nurses who have varying specialties. The program is designed to reduce the use of contracted nurses, thus preserving resources that can be used elsewhere to care for veterans.

To learn more about VA's Travel Nurse Corps, visit the Web site at [www.travelnurse.va.gov](http://www.travelnurse.va.gov), email [travelnurse@va.gov](mailto:travelnurse@va.gov), or call toll free at (866) 664-1030 or in Phoenix at (602) 200-2398.



## FLAG DAY, JUNE 14<sup>th</sup> – FLAG RULES AND REGULATIONS – HOW TO DISPLAY THE FLAG

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1. When the flag is displayed over the middle of the street, it should be suspended vertically with the union to the north in an east and west street or to the east in a north and south street.

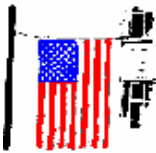


2. The flag of the United States of America, when it is displayed with another flag against a wall from crossed staffs, should be on the right, the flag's own right [*that means the viewer's left -- Webmaster*], and its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag.



3. The flag, when flown at half-staff, should be first hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position. The flag should be again raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day. By "half-staff" is meant lowering the flag to one-half the distance between the top and bottom of the staff. Crepe streamers may be affixed to spear heads or flagstuffs in a parade only by order of the President of the United States.

4. When flags of States, cities, or localities, or pennants of societies are flown on the same halyard with the flag of the United States, the latter should always be at the peak. When the flags are flown from adjacent staffs, the flag of the United States should be hoisted first and lowered last. No such flag or pennant may be placed above the flag of the United States or to the right of the flag of the United States.



5. When the flag is suspended over a sidewalk from a rope extending from a house to a pole at the edge of the sidewalk, the flag should be hoisted out, union first, from the building.

6. When the flag of the United States is displayed from a staff projecting horizontally or at an angle from the window sill, balcony, or front of a building, the union of the flag should be placed at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half-staff.



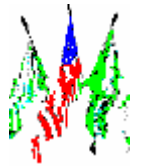
7. When the flag is used to cover a casket, it should be so placed that the union is at the head and over the left shoulder. The flag should not be lowered into the grave or allowed to touch the ground.

8. When the flag is displayed in a manner other than by being flown from a staff, it should be displayed flat, whether indoors or out. When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right, that is, to the observer's left. When displayed in a window it should be displayed in the same way, that is with the union or blue field to the left of the observer in the street. When festoons, rosettes or drapings are desired, bunting of blue, white and red should be used, but never the flag.



9. That the flag, when carried in a procession with another flag, or flags, should be either on the marching right; that is, the flag's own right, or, if there is a line of other flags, in front of the center of that line.

10. The flag of the United States of America should be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags of States or localities or pennants of societies are grouped and displayed from staffs.



11. When flags of two or more nations are displayed, they are to be flown from separate staffs of the same height. The flags should be of approximately equal size. International usage forbids the display of the flag of one nation above that of another nation in time of peace.

12. When displayed from a staff in a church or public auditorium, the flag of the United States of America should hold the position of superior prominence, in advance of the audience, and in the position of honor at the clergyman's or speaker's right as he faces the audience. Any other flag so displayed should be placed on the left of the clergyman or speaker or to the right of the audience.



## DATES TO REMEMBER

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April 6 .....	United States enters WWI, 1917
April 23 .....	United States Army Reserve 98 <sup>th</sup> birthday
May 11 .....	Mother's Day
May 14 .....	Women's Auxiliary Army Corps founded, 1942
May 17 .....	Armed Forces Day
May 26 .....	Memorial Day (observed)
May 30 .....	Memorial Day – <i>See the history of Memorial Day at the bottom of this page</i>
June 6 .....	D-Day – Invasion of Europe, 1944
June 14 .....	United States Army birthday
	Flag Day
June 15 .....	Father's Day
June 20 .....	Army Air Corps is created, 1941

## CONVENTION SCHEDULES

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### American Legion

State .....	July 9-13, 2008, Lewiston, ID
National.....	August 22-28, 2008, Phoenix, AZ

### AMVETS

National.....	August 2-9, 2008, Orlando, FL
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### Disabled American Veterans

State .....	April 30-May 3, 2008, Burley, ID
National.....	August 8-12, 2008, Las Vegas, NV

### Marine Corps League

State .....	May 2008, Boise, ID
National.....	August 10-16, 2008, Orlando, FL

### Military Order of the Purple Heart

State .....	May 17, 2008, Boise, ID
National.....	August 11-16, 2008, Las Vegas, NV

### Retired Enlisted Association

National.....	September 7-13, 2008, San Juan, PR
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### Veterans of Foreign Wars

State .....	June 22-25, 2008, Worley, ID
National.....	August 16-21, 2008, Orlando, FL

## THE HISTORY OF MEMORIAL DAY

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Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day to remember those who have died in our nation's service. After the Civil war many people in the North and South decorated graves of fallen soldiers with flowers.

In the Spring of 1866, Henry C. Welles, a druggist in the village of Waterloo, NY, suggested that the patriots who had died in the Civil War should be honored by decorating their graves. General John B. Murray, Seneca County Clerk, embraced the idea and a committee was formed to plan a day devoted to honoring the dead. Townspeople made wreaths, crosses and bouquets for each veteran's grave. The village was decorated with flags at half mast. On May 5 of that year, a processional was held to the town's cemeteries, led by veterans. The town observed this day of remembrance on May 5 of the following year as well.

Decoration Day was officially proclaimed on May 5, 1868 by General John Logan in his General Order No. 11, and was first observed officially on May 30, 1868. The South did not observe Decoration Day, preferring to honor their dead on separate days until after World War I. In 1882, the name was changed to Memorial Day, and soldiers who had died in other wars were also honored.

In 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday to be held on the last Monday in May. Today, Memorial Day marks the unofficial beginning of the summer season in the United States. It is still a time to remember those who have passed on, whether in war or otherwise. It also is a time for families to get together for picnics, ball games, and other early summer activities.

## DAV VAN SCHEDULES TO AND FROM VA MEDICAL CENTERS

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### BOISE & SURROUNDING AREA TO BOISE VAMC

All appointments for rides must be made 72 hours in advance.

**For more information call Laverne Gillum at the Boise VA Medical Center (208) 422-1000 ext. 7555.**

✱ Homedale, Marsing, and Canyon County: Call Laverne Gillum (208) 422-1000 ext. 7555.

Pickup points:

Star.....	Star Merc
Middleton.....	Downtown Shell Station
.....	Shell Station at exit 25 of I-84
Notus.....	Shell Station
Parma.....	M&W Market
Wilder.....	Shell Station
Homedale.....	Shell Station
Caldwell.....	Chevron at 10 <sup>th</sup> Avenue South & the freeway
.....	Emergency entrance of West Valley Medical Center
.....	Maverick at 10 <sup>th</sup> Avenue South & Ustick
.....	20248 Hoskins Road
Nampa.....	Karcher Mall near Ross Dress for Less
.....	Albertson's at 7 <sup>th</sup> Street & 12 <sup>th</sup> Avenue South
.....	D and B Supply on 12 <sup>th</sup> Avenue South
Melba/Bowmont.....	Chevron at Greenhurst & Southside
.....	McDonalds at exit 38 of the freeway
Kuna.....	West side of the Winco parking lot

✱ Weiser, Payette, Ontario, Emmett, and surrounding area: Call Grace Field (208) 452-5920.

Pickup points:

Emmett.....	Tom's Cabin Restaurant
.....	Subway near Albertson's
.....	Stinker Station
Fruitland.....	Shell Station at Palisades Corner
.....	Shell Station at the highway
Middleton (Caldwell).....	44 Quick Stop
New Plymouth.....	Lowell's Market at 5 Corners
.....	Hamilton Corners at Highways 52 & 30
Nyssa.....	Anderson Corner
.....	McDonalds at West Park Plaza
Ontario.....	McDonalds at West Park Plaza
.....	McDonalds at K-Mart
.....	Shell Station at the freeway
.....	Shell Station on Idaho
.....	The Elk's
Payette.....	Albertson's
.....	Jerry's Market on 6 <sup>th</sup>
.....	Lonnie's market
Weiser.....	Sinclair Station at Highway 95
.....	Maverick Station at Highway 95
.....	Chevron Station
.....	Pioneer Market
.....	Ridley's Market

✱ Twin Falls, Jerome, Lincoln, Gooding, and Elmore Counties: Call Cheryl Ringenberg (208) 733-7610.

Pickup points:

Twin Falls.....	Sheriff's Office
Filer.....	Logan's Market
Buhl.....	Oasis Stop-N-Go
Jerome.....	Ridley's Market
Gooding.....	Ridley's Market
Wendell.....	Farmhouse
Bliss.....	Ziggy's
Hammett.....	Penney's Market
Glenns Ferry.....	Shell Station
Mountain Home.....	Foothills Chevron Station

✱ Cassia, Minidoka, and Blaine Counties: Call Dick Dalton (208) 678-3599 or 878-2565.

Pickup points:

Burley.....	Sheriff's Office
.....	Exit 211 Wayside
.....	Exit 208 Hub 66
.....	Greenwood Store

✱ Southeast Oregon - Baker City, Haines, Halfway, Huntington, John Day:

Call Carl Swinyer (541)-894-2546, Robert Warner (541)523-5340 or the VFW Hall (541) 523-4988.

## DAV VAN SCHEDULES TO AND FROM VA MEDICAL CENTERS

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### LEWISTON & SURROUNDING AREA TO SPOKANE AND WALLA WALLA VAMC'S

**Wednesdays:** Spokane VA Medical Center. 6:00 a.m. departure from the State Veterans Home at 821 21st Avenue.

Picks up in Genesee, Moscow, Viola, Potlatch, Tensed, Plummer, and Worley. Arrives Spokane at 9:30 a.m.

**Fridays:** Spokane VA Medical Center. 6:00 a.m. departure from the State Veterans Home at 821 21st Avenue.

Picks up in Uniontown, Colton, Pullman, Colfax, Steptoe, Rosalia, and Spangle, WA. Arrives Spokane at 9:00 a.m.

**All appointments for rides must be made 48 hours in advance.**

Call the DAV Transportation Office at the Spokane VA Medical Center (800) 325-7940.

**Thursdays:** Walla Walla VA Medical Center. 6:00 a.m. departure from the State Veterans Home at 821 21st Avenue.

Picks up in Clarkston, Pomeroy, Dayton, Waitsburg, and Dixie, WA. Arrives at Walla Walla at 8:30 a.m.

**All appointments for rides must be made 72 hours in advance.**

Call the DAV Transportation Office at the Walla Walla VA Medical Center (888) 687-8863 ext. 22529

**\*\*\*If you are interested in being a volunteer drive, please call Richard Lyon at (208) 882-8580\*\*\***

### LIBBY & SURROUNDING AREA TO SPOKANE VAMC

**Tuesdays and Thursdays:** 6:00 a.m. departure from Libby, MT.

Picks up in Troy MT, Bonner's Ferry, Sandpoint, Priest River, and Newport WA. Arrives at Spokane VA Medical Center at 9:00 a.m.

**All appointments for rides must be made 48 hours in advance.**

Call the DAV Transportation Office at the Spokane VA Medical Center (800) 325-7940.

### COEUR D'ALENE & SURROUNDING AREA TO SPOKANE VAMC

**Daily:** Door to door pick up and return, times variable.

**All appointments for rides must be made 48 hours in advance.**

Call the DAV Transportation Office at the Spokane VA Medical Center (800) 325-7940.

### SALT LAKE CITY VA MEDICAL CENTER

**January** 3, 7, 9, 11, 15, 17, 23, 25, 29, 31

**February** 4, 6, 8, 12, 14, 18, 20, 22, 26, 28

**March** 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 19, 21, 25, 27, 31

**All appointments for rides should be made 24 hours in advance.**

Call Heidi Hopper at the DAV Transportation Office (208) 221-0362 or (800) 613-4012 ext. 2003.



# MOBILE CLINIC

## APRIL ~ 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Moses Lake	2 Moses Lake	3 Moses Lake	4	5
6	7	8 Kettle Falls	9 Republic	10 Okanogan	11 Okanogan	12
13	14	15 Libby	16 Libby	17 Libby	18 Bonners Ferry	19
20	21 Moscow	22 Osburn	23 Osburn	24 <i>On Station</i>	25	26
27	28 <i>On Station</i>	29 <i>On Station</i>	30 <i>On Station</i>			

## MAY ~ 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <i>On Station</i>	2	3
4	5 <i>On Station</i>	6 Moses Lake	7 Moses Lake	8 Moses Lake	9	10
11	12	13 Kettle Falls	14 Republic	15 Okanogan	16 Okanogan	17
18	19	20 Libby	21 Libby	22 Libby	23 Bonners Ferry	24
25	26	27 Moscow	28 Osburn	29 Osburn	30	31

## JUNE ~ 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 <i>On Station</i>	3 Moses Lake	4 Moses Lake	5 Moses Lake	6	7
8	9	10 Kettle Falls	11 Republic	12 Okanogan	13 Okanogan	14
15	16	17 Libby	18 Libby	19 Libby	20 Bonners Ferry	21
22	23 Moscow	24 Osburn	25 Osburn	26 <i>On Station</i>	27	28
29	30					